

MARVEL

#8

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BEN REILLY: THE SCARLET SPIDER

FEELS THE STING
of the
HORNET!

3/11/07
Hanna
Crossley

INHUMANS
A TV SERIES
ABC SEPT 29

Years ago, Miles Warren, one of Peter Parker's college professors, stole a sample of Peter's genetic material and used it to create a perfect clone of Spider-Man. With all of Peter's memories, the clone fled. Created, not born, and without an identity of his own, he gave himself a new name and made his own way in the world as...



BEN REILLY: **THE SCARLET SPIDER**

Ben Reilly has been lying low in Las Vegas. Fortunately, he has found an unlikely ally in Cassandra Mercury, owner of the MERCURY RISING casino, as he searches for a cure for Cassandra's daughter's rare medical condition.

Ben has struggled to find a balance between power and responsibility, and his behavior has grown increasingly erratic and aggressive.

Recently, he was approached by Death herself, who revealed that this struggle comes from within Ben's very soul, which has been damaged as a result Ben's multiple resurrections.

If Ben avoids death, his soul will begin to heal. But if he crosses the veil into the hereafter even once more, the damage will become permanent and Ben will have no hope of redemption!

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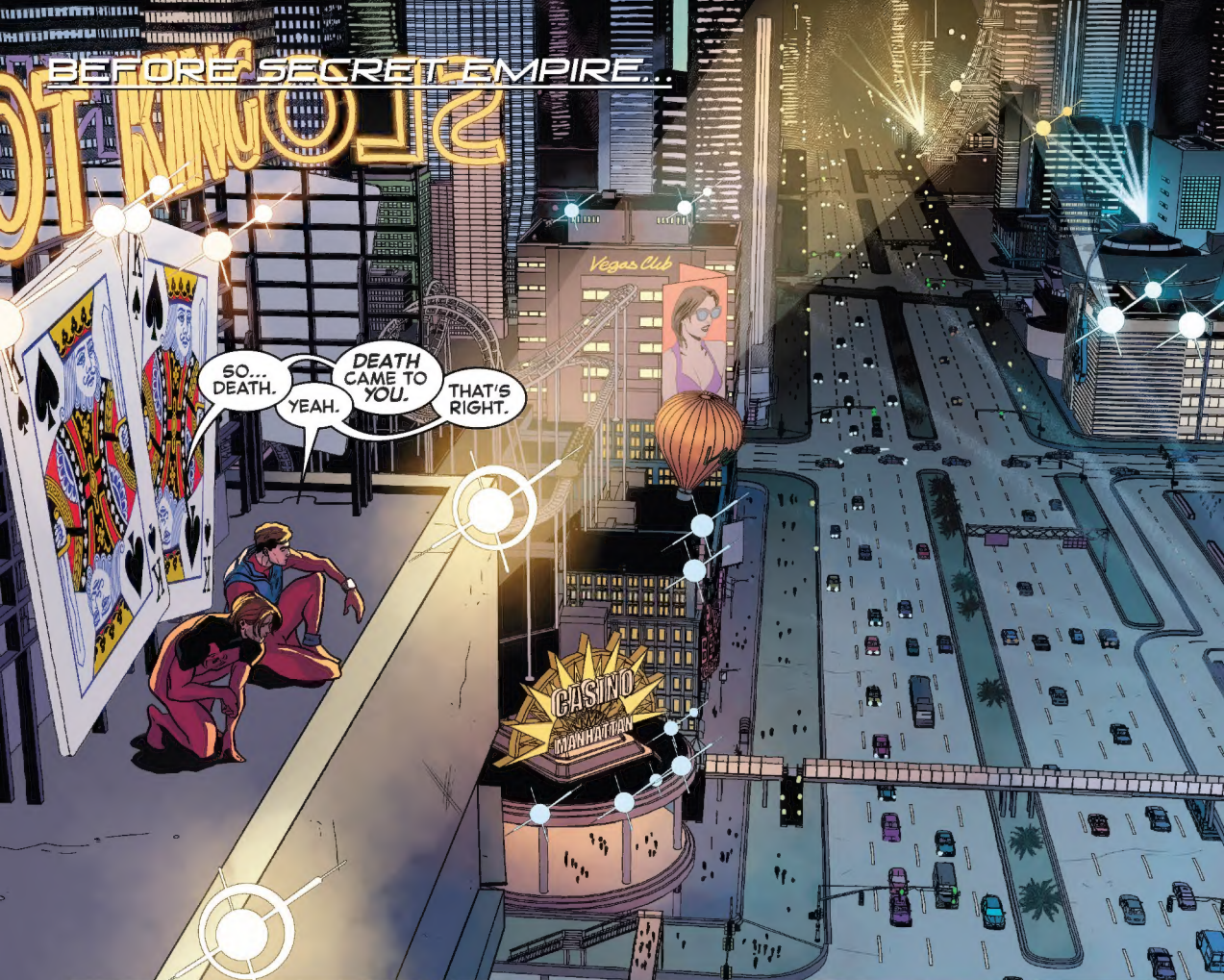
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SO...
DEATH.

YEAH.

DEATH
CAME TO
YOU.

THAT'S
RIGHT.

AND KILLED
ME, STONE
DEAD.

WELL, YOU WERE
BEING KIND OF
OBNOXIOUS.

HOW
WAS
IT?

...
IT...
WASN'T.

I CAN
CERTAINLY
RELATE TO
THAT.

AND THEN YOU
CONVINCED HER TO
BRING ME BACK. ME
AND THE LITTLE
GIRL.

I DON'T KNOW
IF I'D SAY
"CONVINCED." BUT
YEAH, PRETTY
MUCH.

AND
SHE HEALED
YOUR
FACE.

YUP. SAID
I MIGHT BE ABLE
TO MAKE SOMETHING
OF MYSELF.

SOMETHING
OTHER THAN A
LUNATIC, YOU
MEAN?

HA HA HA HA



HE'S LAUGHING.
KAINE IS
LAUGHING.

I'VE NEVER HEARD HIM
LAUGH. I DIDN'T EVEN
KNOW HE COULD.

IT'S THE
CREEPIEST SOUND
I'VE EVER HEARD.



HA HA HA

KAINE?
YOU, UH...YOU
OKAY...?

YOU
WERE THE
VILLAIN!

WHOA!

I CAME HERE TO KILL YOU! FOR
THE CRIMES YOU COMMITTED
AS THE JACKAL! FOR THE
LIVES YOU RUINED!

AND A
COSMIC ENTITY
SHOWS UP AND
REWARDS
YOU?!

WHERE'S
MY REWARD?! MY
REDEMPTION?!
I'M THE GOOD GUY!

WELL,
MAYBE YOU
AREN'T GOOD
ENOUGH!

I NEVER
WANTED TO KILL
ANYONE! WHAT'S
YOUR EXCUSE,
"HERO"?

EVER
THINK OF
THAT?!

THANK GOD
THAT'S OVER.

IT'D BE NICE IF
THINGS RETURNED
TO NORMAL
AROUND HERE.

AFTER SECRET EMPIRE...

SO
MUCH FOR
NORMAL.

FREAKING HYDRA
HELICARRIERS. ALL KINDS
OF RUMORS ABOUT WHY THEY
DID THIS. SUPPOSEDLY SOME
HEROES WERE HIDING IN THE
AREA, PLANNING TO FIGHT
CAPTAIN AMERICA AND
HIS PALS.

THEY COULDN'T
HIDE OUT IN A
DESERT? JEEZ.

I WONDER HOW
KAINE IS HOLDING
UP IN ALL THIS.
DID HE GO TO
GROUND?

IS HE
DEAD?

CASINO
MANHATTAN

WG

HOPE HE
DOESN'T EXPECT
ME TO BAIL HIM
OUT THIS TIME.



GET OUT!
YOU AREN'T
VETERANS!

WE'RE
HUNGRY! AND
ALL THE SUPER-
MARKETS NEAR US
WERE BLOWN
TO CRAP!

SO WAS MY
APARTMENT
BUILDING! WE'RE
HOMELESS AND
STARVING!

THE
GOVERNMENT
IS ON THE WAY
TO--

THE
GOVERNMENT
DID THIS,
SWEETHEART!



SEE
WHAT THEY'VE
GOT IN THE
BACK!

NO!



YOU
HEARD HER.
NO.

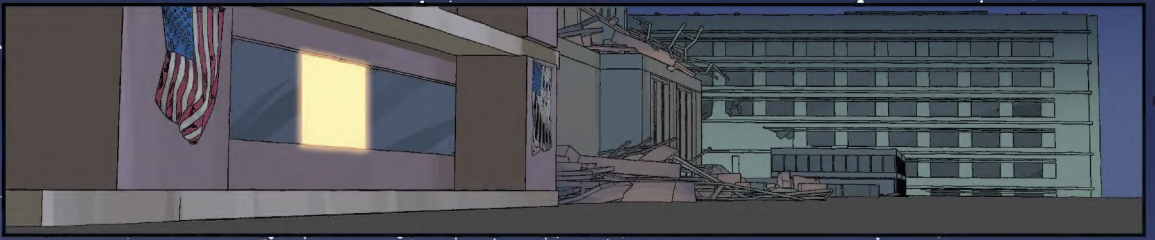
GET
OUT OF THE
WAY!



OH, I
WAS HopING
YOU'D SAY
THAT.



VERY
MUCH
HopING.





EXCELLENT.
VERY NICE.



AS YOU
KNOW, LAS
VEGAS HAS BECOME
SOMETHING OF A
HELLHOLE. PEOPLE
ARE SCRAMBLING
TO SURVIVE.

FORTUNATELY,
SOME PLACES, SUCH
AS THIS ONE, WERE
UNDAMAGED BY THE
STRIKES.

THEREFORE,
IT IS INCUMBENT
UPON US TO DO
TWO THINGS:



PROTECT
OURSELVES
AND OUR
PATRONS.

AND HELP
THE DESPERATE
RESIDENTS OF
LAS VEGAS.

WITH
ME SO
FAR?

YES,
SIR.



NOW, A
WOMAN--A VERY
EVIL WOMAN NAMED
CASSANDRA MERCURY--
IS PRETENDING TO
HELP PEOPLE.

BUT IT'S ALL
A RUSE. **DECEPTION**.
I HAVE HEARD FROM A
RELIABLE SOURCE THAT SHE'S
HOARDING FOOD AND HAS TWO
SUPERHUMANS ON HER PAYROLL
AS STRONGMEN, INCLUDING ONE
SPIDER-MAN LOOKALIKE,
WITH WHOM I UNDERSTAND YOU
HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE.

SHE
MUST BE
STOPPED.



SHE IS
EXPECTING A
SHIPMENT. A MASSIVE
ONE--ENOUGH TO HELP
FEED RESIDENTS OF
OUR CITY.

INSTEAD, SHE'S
GOING TO KEEP IT
IN HER CASINO AND
ONLY OFFER IT TO
GUESTS.

I REQUIRE
YOU TO
STOP IT.

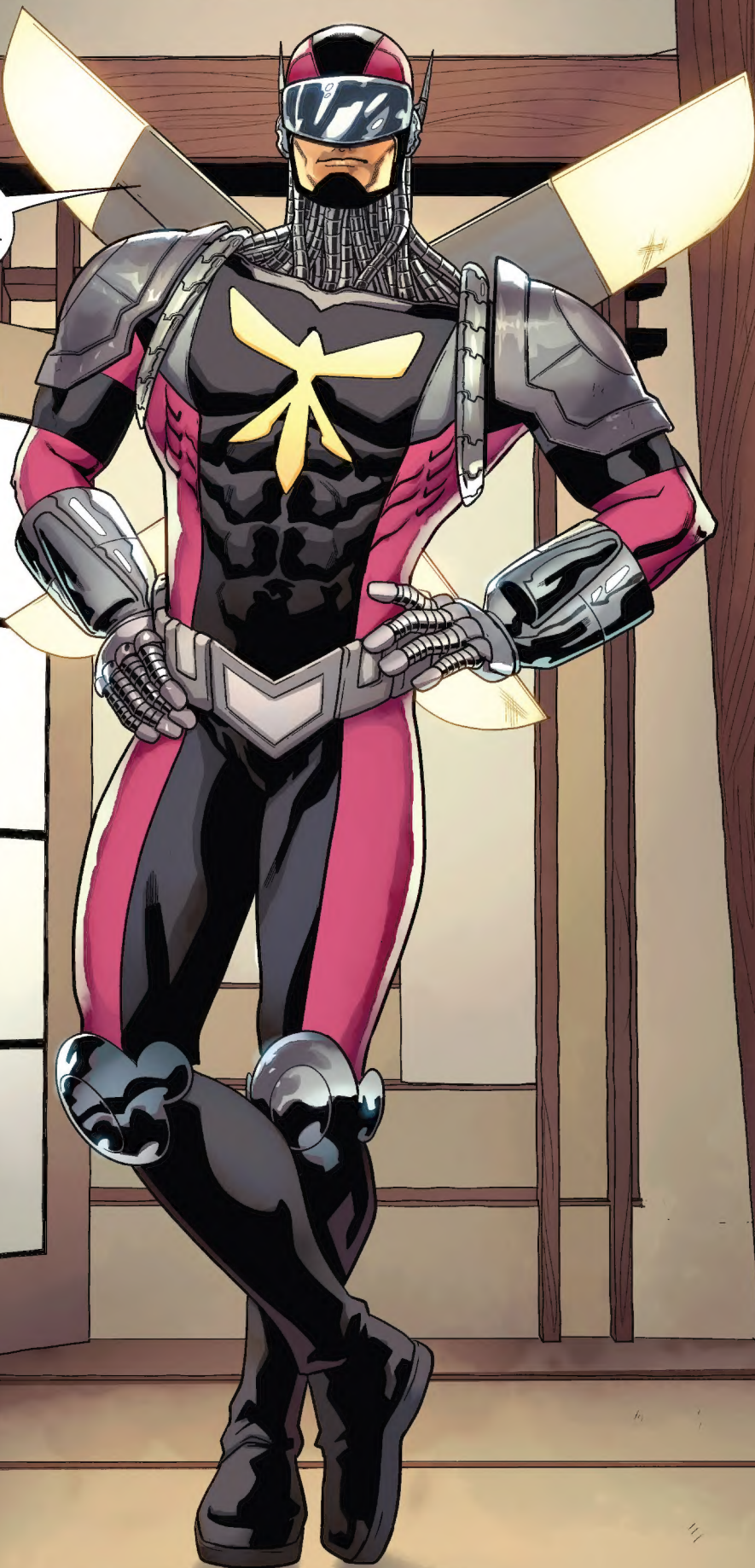
CAN
YOU DO
THAT?

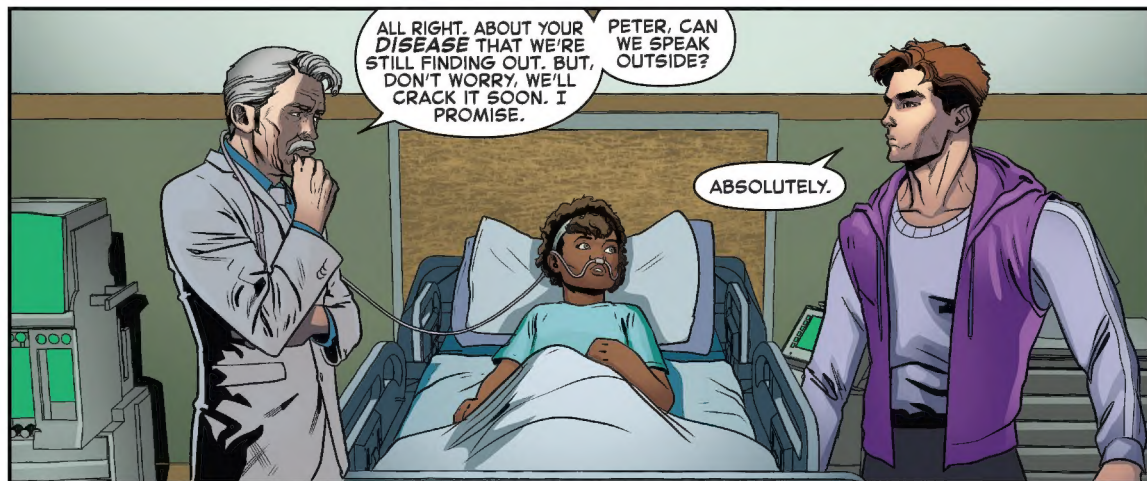
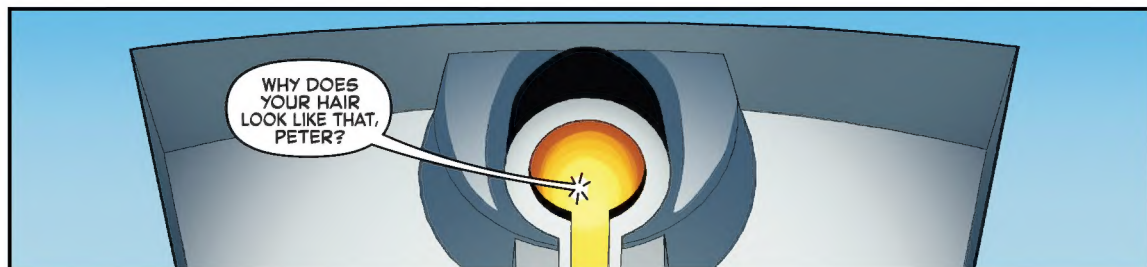
ABSOLUTELY,
BOSS.

JUST POINT
ME IN THE RIGHT
DIRECTION AND
THE HORNET WILL
TAKE CARE OF
THE REST.

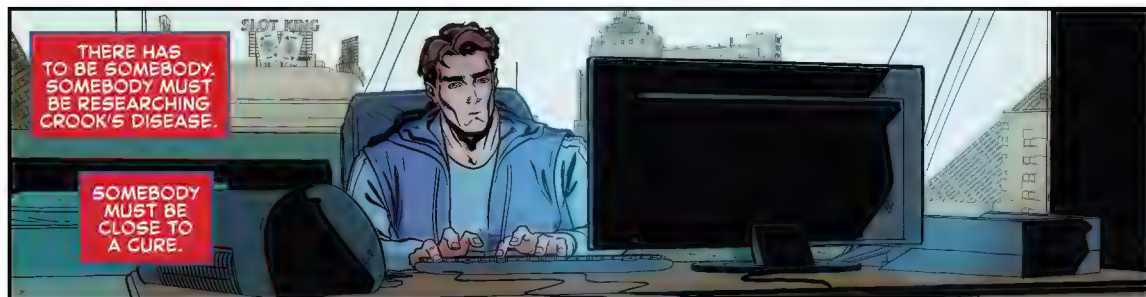
THANK
YOU,
HORNET.

NO
PROBLEM
AT ALL.



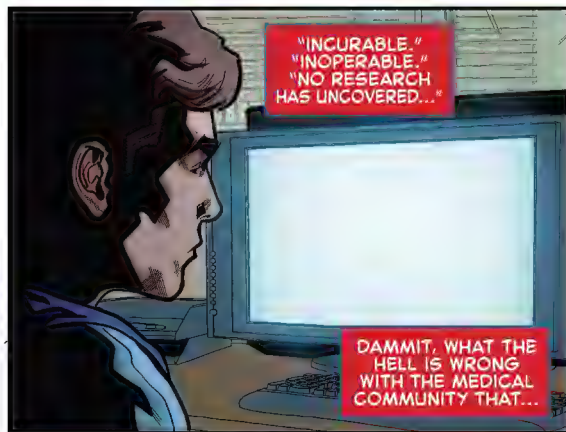






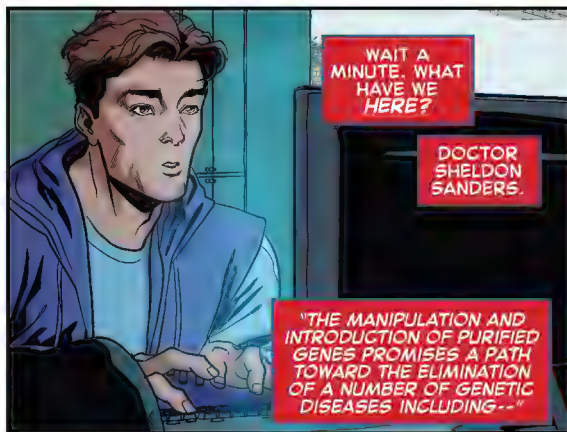
THERE HAS
TO BE SOMEBODY.
SOMEBODY MUST
BE RESEARCHING
CROOK'S DISEASE.

SOMEBODY
MUST BE
CLOSE TO
A CURE.



"INCURABLE."
"INOPERABLE."
"NO RESEARCH
HAS UNCOVERED..."

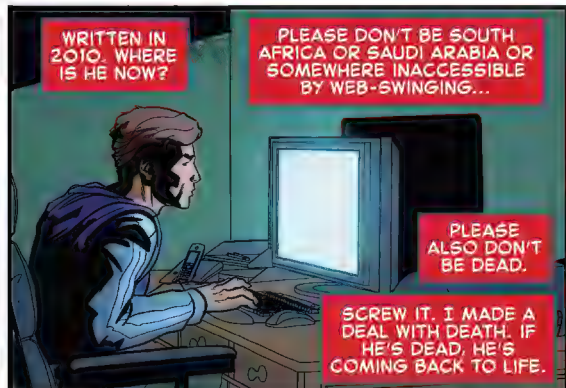
DAMMIT, WHAT THE
HELL IS WRONG
WITH THE MEDICAL
COMMUNITY THAT...



WAIT A
MINUTE. WHAT
HAVE WE
HERE?

DOCTOR
SHELDON
SANDERS.

"THE MANIPULATION AND
INTRODUCTION OF PURIFIED
GENES PROMISES A PATH
TOWARD THE ELIMINATION
OF A NUMBER OF GENETIC
DISEASES INCLUDING--"



WRITTEN IN
2010. WHERE
IS HE NOW?

PLEASE DON'T BE SOUTH
AFRICA OR SAUDI ARABIA OR
SOMEWHERE INACCESSIBLE
BY WEB-SWINGING...

PLEASE
ALSO DON'T
BE DEAD.

SCREW IT. I MADE A
DEAL WITH DEATH. IF
HE'S DEAD, HE'S
COMING BACK TO LIFE.



CARSON
CITY!

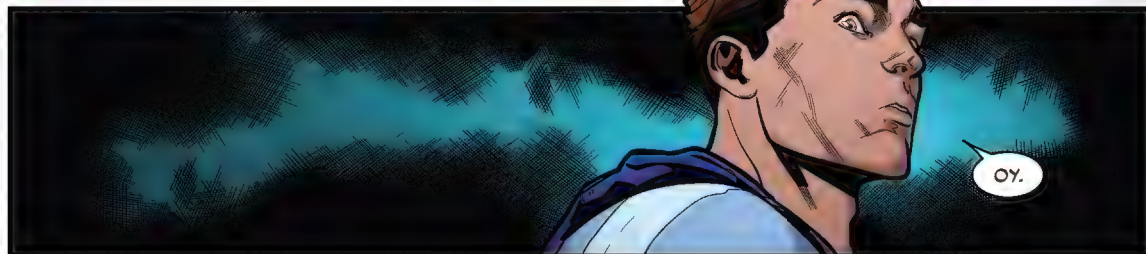
NEVADA!

HE'S
IN THIS
DAMNED
STATE!

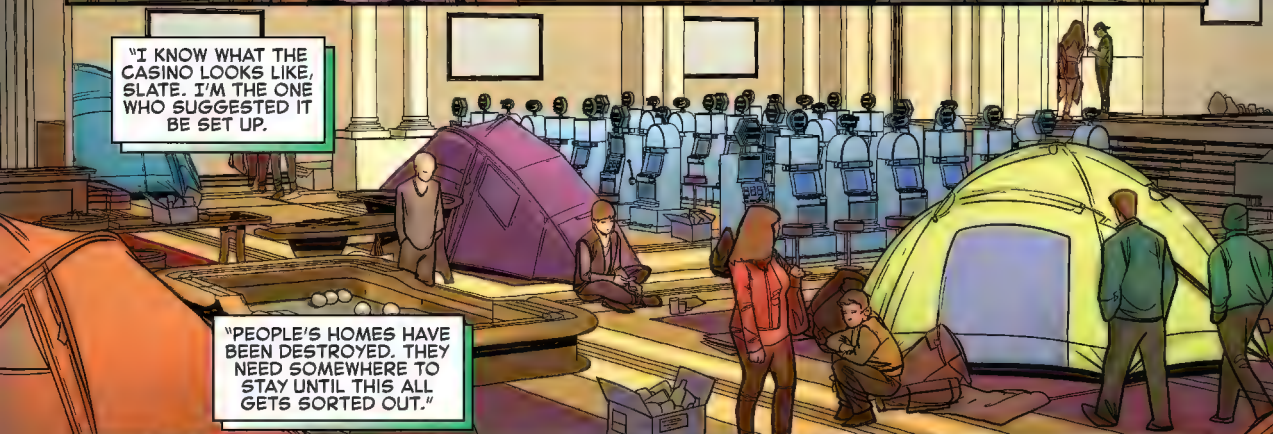


YES!

KRUNNCH



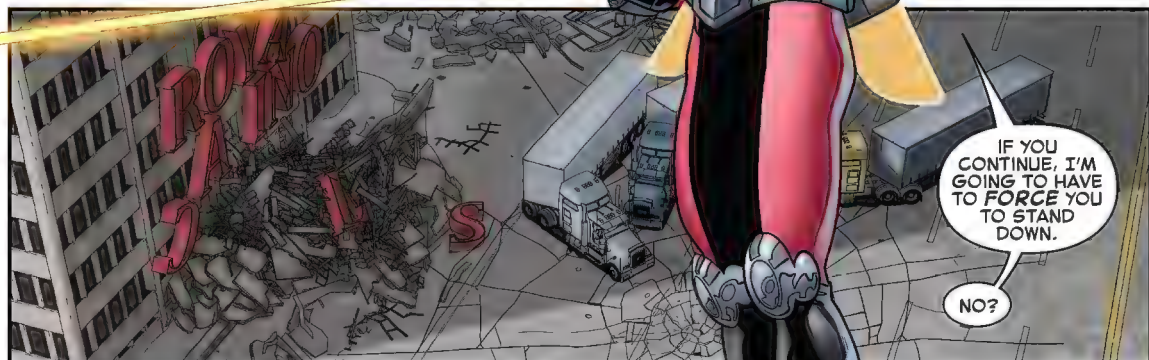
OY.



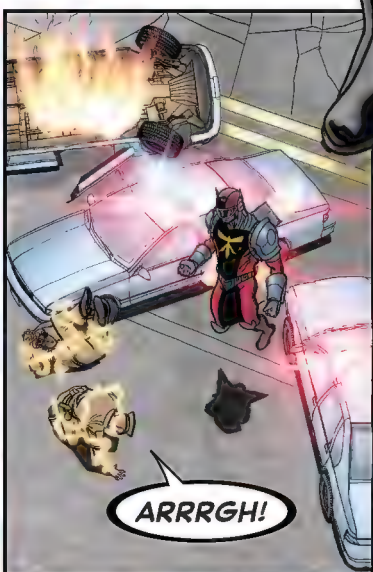




OFFICERS, I UNDERSTAND YOUR HEARTS ARE IN THE RIGHT PLACE, BUT YOU'RE HELPING A DANGEROUS CRIMINAL BY SHOOTING AT ME!



VERY WELL!



ARRRGH!



IT'S OKAY. YOU'RE OKAY.

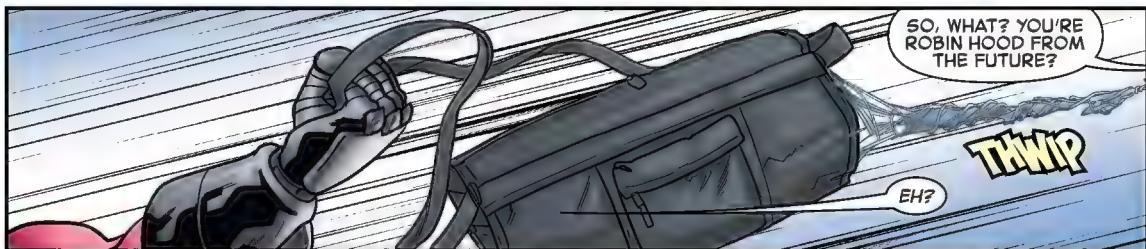
NON-LETHAL TASER ROUNDS. YOU'LL BE RIGHT AS RAIN IN THE MORNING.

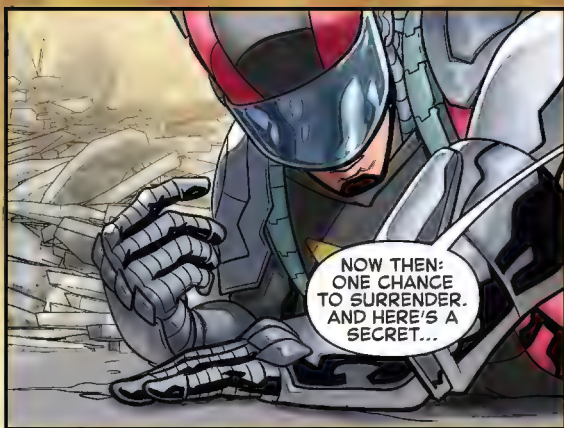


DISPATCH, YOU'VE GOT TWO OFFICERS DOWN HERE. BOTH HIT WITH A CONCUSSIVE TASER BLAST.

WHO THE HELL IS--

THEY'RE GOING TO REQUIRE PLENTY OF FLUIDS, AND A DAY OR TWO OF BED REST.





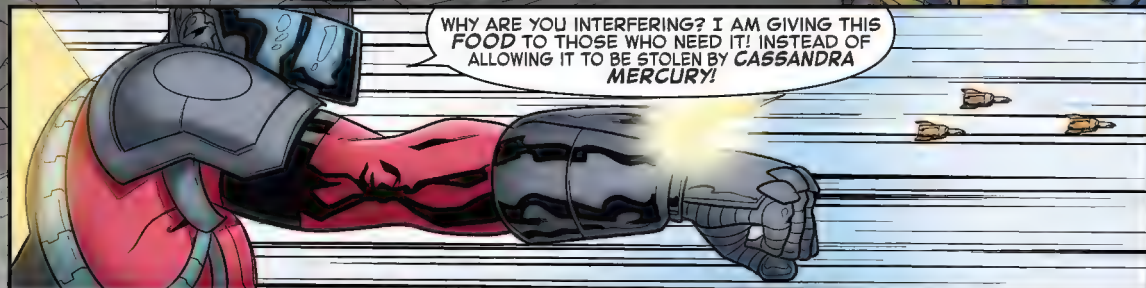


SPIDER-MAN?!

THE SCARLET SPIDER, ACTUALLY.

AND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU?

NO HYPHEN.

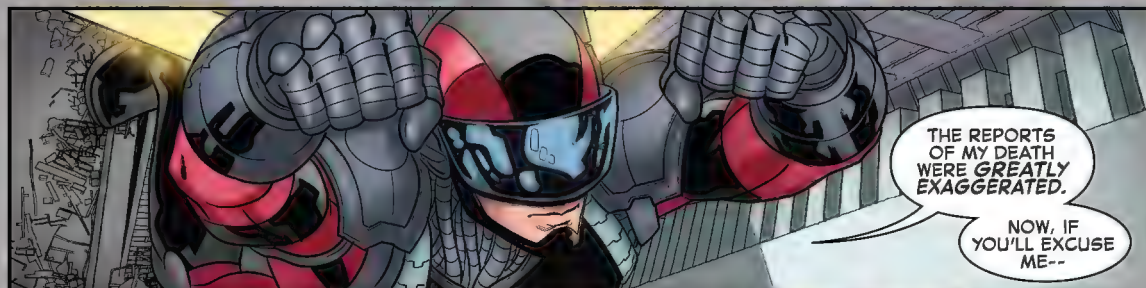


WHY ARE YOU INTERFERING? I AM GIVING THIS FOOD TO THOSE WHO NEED IT! INSTEAD OF ALLOWING IT TO BE STOLEN BY CASSANDRA MERCURY!



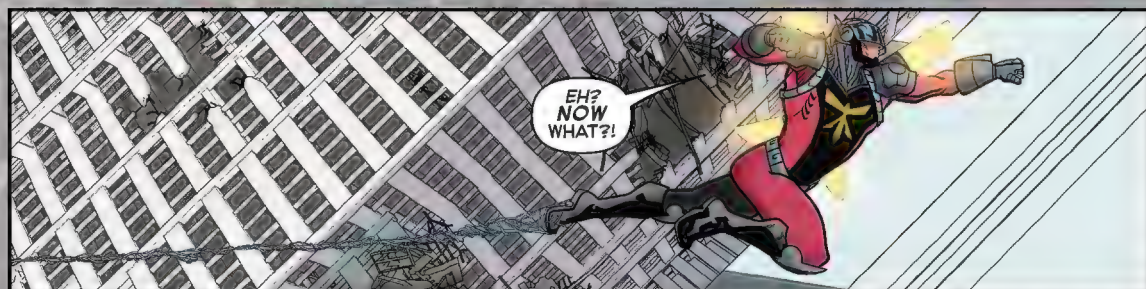
WHO'S GIVING IT TO HUNGRY PEOPLE.

BY THE WAY, HORNET, AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD?

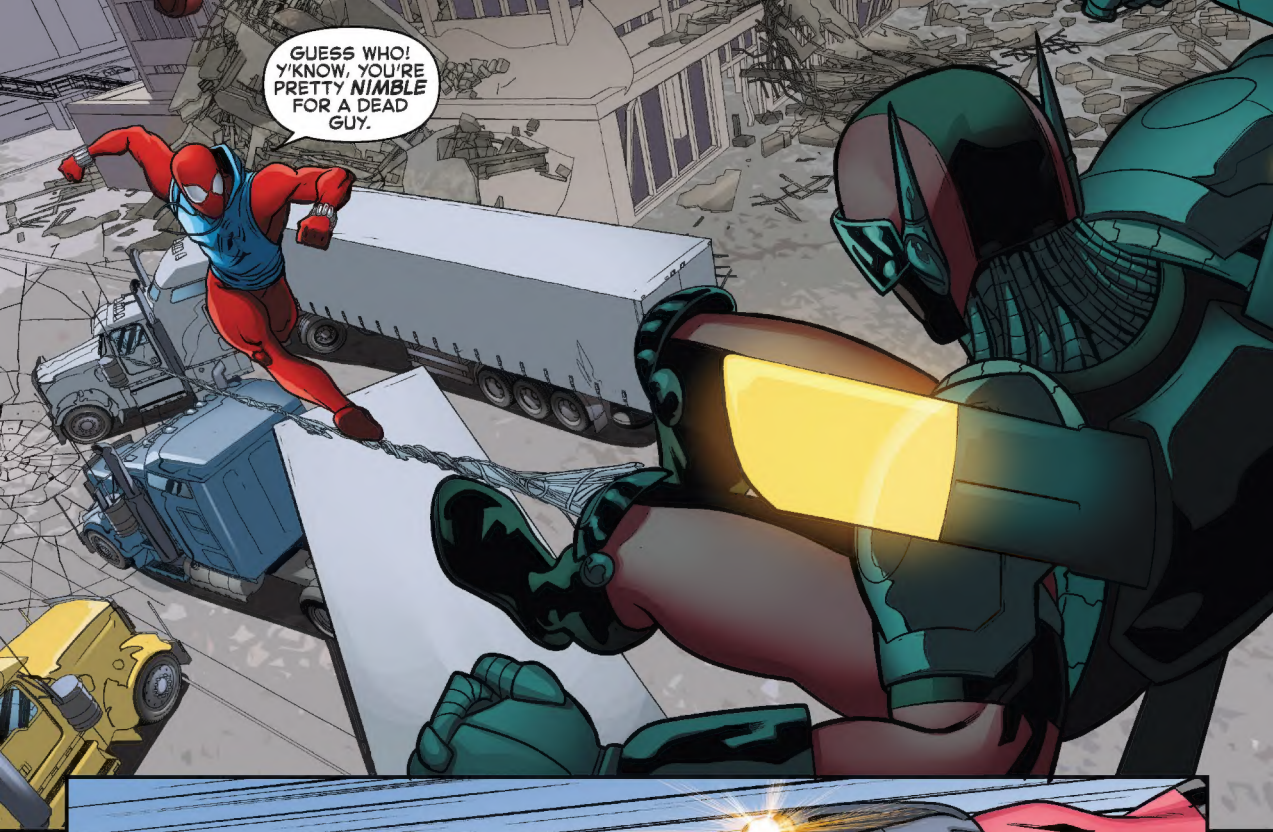


THE REPORTS OF MY DEATH WERE GREATLY EXAGGERATED.

NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME--



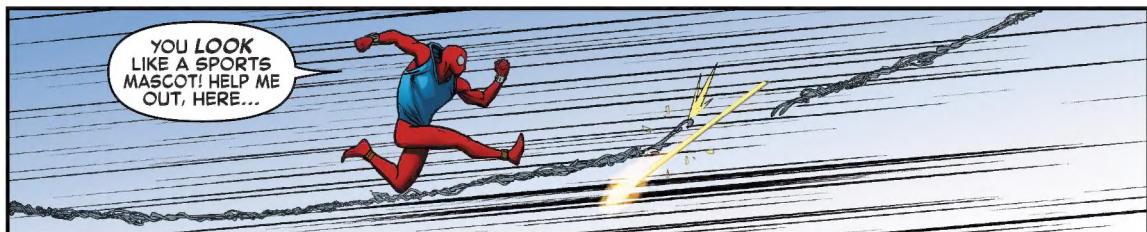
EH? NOW WHAT?!



GUESS WHO!
Y'KNOW, YOU'RE
PRETTY *NIMBLE*
FOR A DEAD
GUY.



DO
I LOOK
DEAD?



YOU LOOK
LIKE A SPORTS
MASCOT! HELP ME
OUT, HERE...



...BECAUSE
LAST I HEARD,
WOLVERINE KILLED
THE HORNET. AND
PEOPLE HE KILLS
TEND TO *STAY*
DEAD.

THWIP



WHICH
LEAVES ONLY
ONE QUESTION:
WHO *ARE*
YOU?



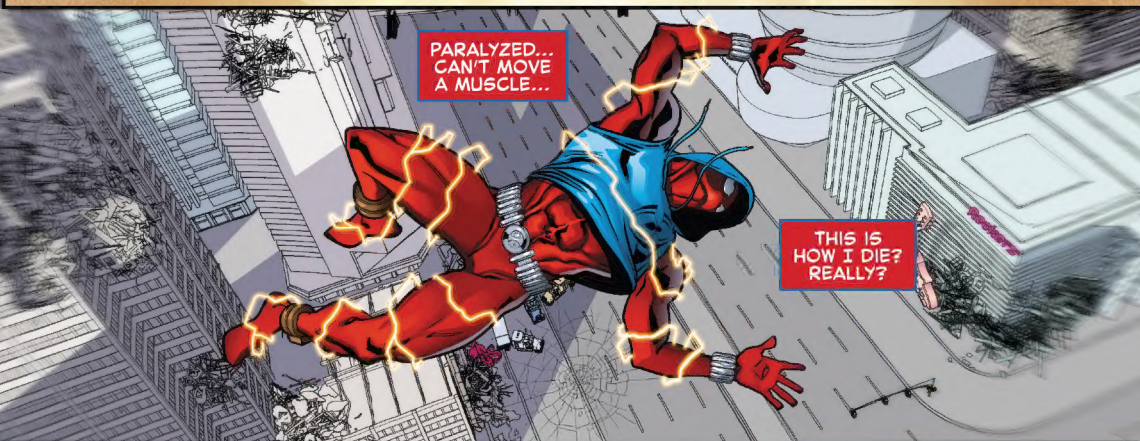
WHY DON'T WE RIP THAT MASK OFF AND FIND OUT?

GOOD PLAN. UNFORTUNATELY, MY HORNET'S STING WILL PREVENT THAT.



ZZZZZZTTTT

ARRHHHH!



PARALYZED... CAN'T MOVE A MUSCLE...

THIS IS HOW I DIE? REALLY?



NOW, WHAT THE HELL?!



WHAT JUST HAPPENED? WHO ARE YOU?!



YOU DON'T
RECOGNIZE ME?
RICOCHET?

WHICH MEANS,
I ASSUME,
YOU'RE NOT
SPIDER-MAN.

EESH. DON'T
ANY OF THESE
COSTUMED GUYS
LISTEN?

SCARLET
SPIDER.

OKAY, WELL,
I JUST SAVED
YOUR LIFE,
SCARLET.

SO DO
YOU HAVE ANY
IDEA HOW MY FRIEND,
EDDIE, JUST CAME
BACK FROM THE DEAD?
BECAUSE THAT
DOESN'T GENERALLY
HAPPEN.

HAPPENS
MORE
OFTEN THAN
YOU'D THINK,
ACTUALLY.

CAN I
HAVE A MINUTE,
'CAUSE I THINK
I'M ABOUT TO
PASS OUT.

SUIT
YOURSELF.
I'LL WAIT.

TO BE
CONTINUED!

NEXT:



LET US KNOW HOW WE'RE DOING! DROP US A LINE AT SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM!
BE SURE TO MARK IT "OKAY TO PRINT"!